

CHANNELS

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NFD/EXDIS

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CIA

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WH12WH

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.

■WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: 1 JUNE 1974

SUBJECT: SIX-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT IN ITALY HELD UNLIKELY

REF : ROME 7508, 311500Z MAY 74, LOU;

25X1A2g

ROME 7500, 311500Z MAY 74, S/NFD/EXDIS;

US AMBASSADOR VOLPE BELIEVES THAT A SIX-PARTY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COALITION, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE COMMUNISTS, IS UNLIKELY. BOTH THE COMMUNISTS AND SOME POLITICAL PARTIES, HOWEVER, ARE CONSIDERING THE IDEA, AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IMPLIES THAT ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES MAY BE CLOSER TO COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS THAN HERETOFORE. VOLPE BELIEVES THE IMPETUS FOR CONSIDERING A SIX-PARTY COALITION COMES FROM RECENT VIOLENCE AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HE DOUBTS THAT PARLIAMENT SERIOUSLY ENTERTAINS A BELIEF THAT A CHANGE TO AN INHERENTLY INCOHESIVE COALITION COULD IMPROVE THE

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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COUNTRY'S SITUATION.

DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI DISMISSED THE NOTION OF A SIX-PARTY COALITION IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR. A LIBERAL PARTY LEADER CLAIMS HIS PARTY OPPOSES A COALITION THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE COMMUNISTS, BUT THAT A FEW PARTY OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE IDEA SHOULD NOT BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND. HE CLAIMED PRIME MINISTER RUMOR HAD INFORMED HIM THAT COMMUNIST LEADER BERLINGUER HAD NEVER PROPOSED COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IN RUMOR'S OPINION, COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION WAS INCONCEIVABLE. REPUBLICAN PARTY LEADER LA MALFA, ON THE OTHER HAND, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT IN THE FACE OF ACTUAL AND IMPENDING LOSSES TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, RESISTANCE TO A GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS IS GENERALLY WANING.

MEANWHILE, THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PLANS OF THE RIGHT WING TO STAGE A COUP. SUNDAY, HOWEVER, IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY, AND A MILITARY PARADE IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ROME. RIGHT WING ELEMENTS CONCEIVABLY COULD USE THIS AS A COVER FOR SOME FORM OF ACTIVITY.

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IN THE AFTERMATH OF RECENT VIOLENCE AND IN AN EFFORT TO SHOW
ITSELF CAPABLE OF DECISIVE ACTION ON LAW AND ORDER MATTERS, THE
GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A NEW OFFICE IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY TO
COORDINATE ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT,
THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE POLICE
FORCE BY 5,000 MEN OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. E-2 IMPDET.H

{SPECIAL DISTRIUBTION: W EUR DIV AND NIO 25X1A9a

25X1A9a

DATE: 1 JUNE 74
ORIG: WHSS
UNIT: CIA OPS CTR
EXT: 9340

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